

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #55

Summer Announcement #50, District 2 and District 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedule

and District 2 Commercial Fishing Period

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 111,600 Chinook salmon through July 8 is well below the historical average of 135,100 for this date. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 2.5 million fish which is well above the median of 1.6 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 run progresses. The preliminary commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 combined through July 8 is approximately 287,500 summer chum salmon with a reported 957 Chinook salmon released and 181 Chinook salmon caught but not sold.

Based on current run assessment information, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A reduced subsistence fishing schedule in District 2 and District 3 is being implemented with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon. Furthermore, this announcement opens one 4-hour commercial salmon fishing period in District 2.

District 3 Subsistence: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 18-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 2:00 p.m. Thursdays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 2:00 p.m. Mondays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

District 2 Subsistence: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 18-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 2:00 p.m. Thursdays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 2:00 p.m. Mondays, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

District 2 Commercial Gillnet Salmon Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open for one 4-hour period from 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, until 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

Commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or retain them for subsistence purposes. The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited and Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen in District 2 and 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the commercial salmon fishing opportunities.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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